

The Stand

Volume 11 Issue 1

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The official newsletter of the Southwest Texas Area 68 District 12 of Alcoholics Anonymous

Step One

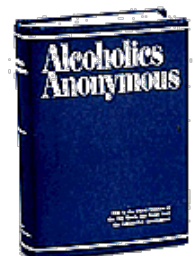
Step One: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol that our lives had become unmanageable. Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course, wants to admit this. Every natural instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness. It is truly through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.

Why We Call It The Big Book

A printer in Cornwall, NY, named Edward Blackwell, had been highly recommended to Bill Wilson. Blackwell was the President of Cornwall Press. So Bill and Hank Parkhurst (author of the personal story "The Unbeliever" in the first edition of the Big Book) went to Cornwall to see Blackwell. There they were told that the book would probably be only about four hundred pages when printed. That seemed a bit skimpy. They wanted to sell the book for \$3.50 per copy. That was a very large sum in those days, probably the equivalent of about \$50 today, and people might not think they were getting their money's worth.



They picked the cheapest, thickest paper the printer had, and requested that each page be printed with unusually large margins surrounding the text. This made for an unusually large book. Thus, the book came to be nicknamed the "Big Book."



The Stand

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions: Tradition 1

... Tradition One Our common welfare should come first personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity. The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come depend squarely upon it. Our Twelve Steps to recovery are suggestions. The Twelve Traditions which guarantee A.A.s unity contain not a single Don't. They repeatedly say We ought but never you must. To many minds all this liberty for the individual spells sheer anarchy...today in the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous which God willing shall sustain us in unity for so long as He may need us.

Notes from an Interview with Ray B. 8/21/16 by Madeline A. and Jayson J.

"My first meeting in Kerrville was at the Episcopal Church in 1969 with two old retired men who talked about the railroad instead of recovery. I talked Dr. Ross into having a meeting at the Outpatient Clinic on Water St. next to the library. It was the first real AA meeting in Kerrville. Later we had a meeting in the State Hospital on the ward. They had a unit at the State Hospital for alcoholism where I worked for 17½ years. Later the meeting moved to an old house next to the current 720 Club. We started meetings in Fredericksburg in 1974 and in Bandera in the late 70's.

"I was three years sober when I moved to Kerrville from Odessa. Four people got sober at the 66 Club in Odessa. Tom S. was a traveling salesman and my first sponsor. In the early days it was group sponsorship until you could find somebody. Suburban group in Odessa had five or six women. We wore coat and tie to the meetings. When I was two weeks sober they put me in charge of the literature. The people paid what they could and I got 10% of the take.

"I knew there was something there at the meetings. Ask for God's help and you stay sober and thank him at night. It felt silly but I did it and after 30 days I realized I was sober. People now make too big a deal out of the 4th and 5th steps. It's about my character defects."

The Stand

Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

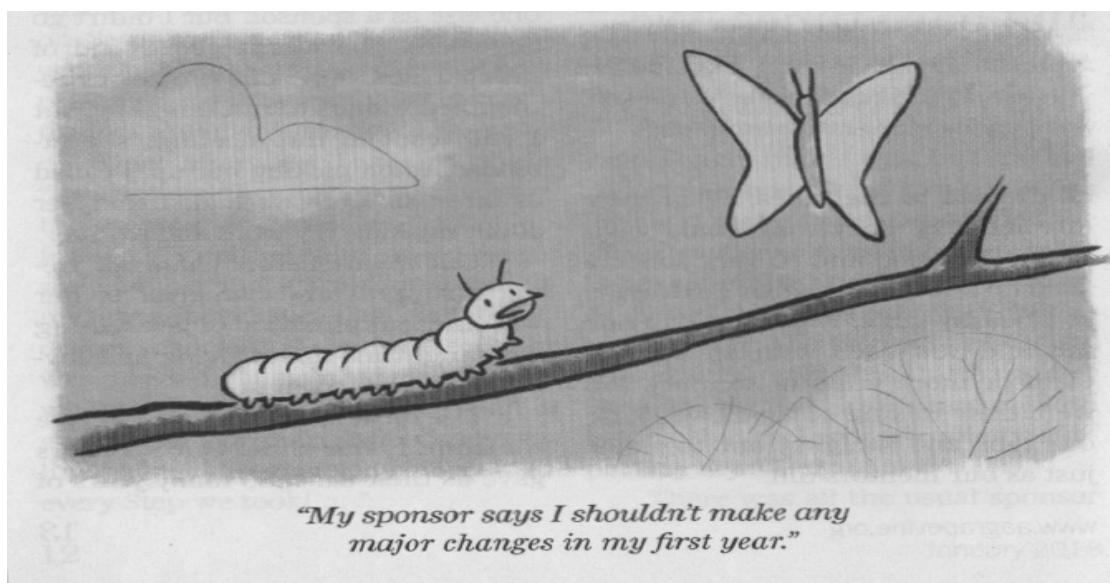
Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because the “ultimate responsibility and final authority for...world services” resides with the groups-rather than with the trustees of the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York.

In Concept I, Bill traces how this came to be. The first step in 1938 was “the creation of a trusteeship,” first called the Alcoholic Foundation, renamed in 1954 the General Service Board. Why? To perform the services the groups could not do for themselves.

This concept has its roots in Tradition Two, which states:

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants: they do not govern.”

The principles of Tradition Two are crystal-clear, Bill asserts: “The A.A. groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.” The outside world cannot imagine an organization run this way, but Bill calls it “a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility, and enough love of man and of God to insure that our democracy of world service will work....”



The Stand

Our New Slate for District 12

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Grapevine:	Joseph
Bilingual:	Tony
Helplines:	Robert S

Words from our new DCM

Hello District 12! I am fortunate and blessed to be your new DCM for the next two years. I am sure there will be lots of good times coming, beginning with hosting the SWTA 68 Pre General Service Assembly. More detail will follow. I encourage past and future GSR's to attend our district meeting that will be held at the 720 Club on Jan. 7th. Typically our meeting is held on the second Sunday of the month at the 720 Club at 2:00. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Tracy Mc

I will happily entertain any articles,
stories, jokes (clean ones) or
ideas anyone would like to submit for
this newsletter.

Please contact me at:

ibrrcmad@aol.com

Welcome to

Alcoholics Anonymous

Southwest Texas Area 68 - District 12

WELCOME TO DISTRICT 12 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

...serving Bandera, Gillespie, Kerr, Kendall, and Kimble counties in the hill country of Texas.

Anybody can look at the schedules and events here, but if you want the full benefits of the site as a District 12 AA member, please register and login. The more District 12 AA members who sign up, the more useful the site becomes!

GET INVOLVED!

There are many opportunities to get help or to help other alcoholics in our district.

To learn more about service opportunities click here

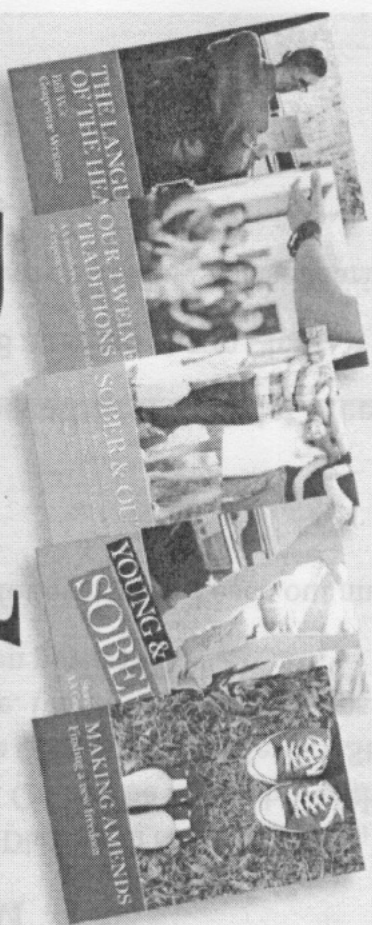
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www.aa12.org

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the more useful the website.

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Post Events!

Everyone who registers can be notified!



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- The Best of Grapevine Vol. III
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SWTA 68

Winter Workshop

"The Spiritual Life Is Not A Theory"

Hosted by District 8D
January 12th, 13th, 14th 2018

Holiday Inn Marina

707 N Shoreline Blvd

Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Lodging: Holiday Inn Marina

(361) 882-1700

1-800-Holiday

Rates: \$109/Night

Group Discount Code: South West Texas Area 68



Oliver C. 956.536.6336

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